

Message Text

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EUR/CAN - MR. BROWN (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 247136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, CA, US, TSPA

SUBJECT: USE OF TELESAT FOR U.S. THULE AFB COMMUNICATIONS
LINK.

1. RESPONDING TO DOD REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN THULE,
GREENLAND AFB AND CONUS RCA GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
HAS INSTALLED EARTH STATION AT THULE AND REQUESTED FCC
AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF CANADIAN TELESAT SATELLITE.
FCC HAS GRANTED TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION THROUGH
NOVEMBER 30 WITH FINAL DETERMINATION TO BE MADE LATER THIS
MONTH. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS GOC COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTRY HAS ISSUED SIMILAR AUTHORIZATION TO TELESAT.

2. FCC HAS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT VIEW REGARDING
APPLICABILITY OF (A) 1951 U.S. DENMARK AGREEMENT
CONCERNING DEFENSE OF GREENLAND; (B) INTELSAT AGREEMENT;
AND (C) U.S.-CANADIAN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF NOVEMBER 6
AND 7, 1972 RELATING TO UTILIZATION OF TELESAT
FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC SERVICE.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO RECEIVED LETTER FROM INTELSAT
SECRETARY GENERAL NOTING PROPOSED USE OF SPACE SEGMENT
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SEPARATE FROM INTELSAT AND REQUESTING U.S. VIEWS REGARDING

APPLICABILITY OF ARTICLE XIV OF INTELSAT AGREEMENT.
DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS CANADIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED
SIMILAR LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL.

4. DEPARTMENT PLANS RESPOND TO FCC LETTER THAT
(A) SERVICE IS PERMITTED UNDER U.S.-DENMARK AGREEMENT.
(FYI DANISH ADMINISTRATION HAS INFORMED RCA BY TELEX
THAT UNDER 1951 AGREEMENT U.S. MAY ESTABLISH AND OPERATE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS FROM THULE BASE, AND THERE
WOULD BE NOTHING TO PREVENT USG FROM CONTRACTING
WITH ANY COMPANY FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM
CONCERNED. END FYI); (B) THAT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE HAS STATED THAT SERVICE IS IN DIRECT SUPPORT
OF DOD MISSION FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE U.S.;
AND THEREFORE IN DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ARTICLE XIV(G)
OF THE INTELSAT AGREEMENT IS APPLICABLE TO THIS SERVICE
(FYI ARTICLE XIV(G) STATES QUOTE THIS AGREEMENT SHALL
NOT APPLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT, ACQUISITION OR UTILI-
ZATION OF SPACE SEGMENT FACILITIES SEPARATE FROM THE
INTELSAT SPACE SEGMENT FACILITIES SOLELY FOR
NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES. END QUOTE, END FYI);
(C) THAT U.S.-CANADIAN LETTER EXCHANGE POSES NO BAR
TO PROVISION OF SERVICE; AND (D) THAT THESE
DEPARTMENT VIEWS ARE BEING COMMUNICATED TO THE
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED BRING TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE
CANADIAN AUTHORITIES OUR PLANNED RESPONSE TO FCC
LETTER. FCC HAS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT REPLY BY
NOVEMBER 15. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REPORT
ON CANADIAN AUTHORITIES VIEWS BY MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. MAW

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